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(TURNER SUPPORT)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SEN. FRANK CHURCH, D-IDaho, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF AN INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE THAT UNCOVERED INTELLIGENCE ABUSES, SAID MONDAY HE THOUGHT ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER AS A DISCIPLINED MILITARY MAN WOULD MAKE A GOOD CIA DIRECTOR.

TURNER, NOW COMMANDER OF ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S NOMINEE FOR THE CIA POST, GOES BEFORE THE NEW SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE FOR CONFIRMATION HEARINGS NEXT WEEK.

"I THINK HE'S COMPETENT TO COMMAND," CHURCH SAID IN AN INTERVIEW ON THE WASHINGTON WTTG PANORAMA TELEVISION PROGRAM. "HE'S TRAINED TO COMMAND COMPLETE SUBORDINATION AS CONTRASTED TO INSUBORDINATION.

"WE HAVE INSTANCES IN THE PAST THAT DIRECTORS OF THE CIA CLAIMED THEY DIDN'T KNOW, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE AGENCY WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE FIDEL CASTRO. I THINK THAT KIND OF THING HAS TO BE AVOIDED AND TURNER MAY BE THE MAN TO AVOID IT."

CHURCH SAID HE TALKED TO TURNER IMMEDIATELY AFTER CARTER DESIGNATED HIM AS CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE.

"THE FIRST THING I SAID WAS 'YOU HAVE TO TAKE CHARGE OF THAT AGENCY; YOU HAVE TO KNOW EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR IT.'"

TURNER REPLIED, ACCORDING TO CHURCH, "I'M A MILITARY MAN AND THAT'S MY WHOLE TRAINING. ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THE CIA WILL BE MY RESPONSIBILITY AND THERE WILL NEVER COME A TIME WHEN I'LL COME BEFORE A COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS AND SAY EITHER I DIDN'T KNOW OR IT WAS SOMEBODY ELSE'S FAULT. EVERYTHING IS MY FAULT."

"THAT," SAID CHURCH, "IS A VERY STRONG POINT IN HIS FAVOR."

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